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# Lefties for Reagan

THE AUTHORS were editors of  
*Ramparts*, a voice of the '60s left.

*We have seen the enemy  
and he is not us*

BY PETER COLLIER AND DAVID HOROWITZ



**W**hen we tell our old radical friends that we voted for Ronald Reagan last November, the response is usually one of annoyed incredulity. After making sure that we are not putting them on, our old friends make nervous jokes about Jerry Falwell and Phyllis Schlafly, about gods that have failed, about aging yuppies ascending to consumer heaven in their BMWs. We remind them of an old adage: "Anyone under 40 who isn't a social-

*Peter Collier and David Horowitz, who were editors of Ramparts magazine, are the authors of The Rockefeller: An American Dynasty and The Kennedys: An American Drama.*

ist has no heart; anyone over 40 who is a socialist has no brain."

Inevitably the talk becomes bitter. One old comrade, after a tirade in which she had denounced us as reactionaries and crypto-fascists, finally sputtered, "And the worst thing is that you've turned your back on the Sixties!" That was exactly right: casting our ballots for Ronald Reagan was indeed a way of finally saying goodbye to all that—to the self-aggrandizing romance with corrupt Third Worldism; to the casual indulgence of Soviet totalitarianism; to the hypocritical and self-dramatizing anti-Americanism which is the New Left's bequest to mainstream politics.

The instruments of popular culture

may perhaps be forgiven for continuing to portray the '60s as a time of infectious idealism, but those of us who were active then have no excuse for abetting this banality. If in some ways it was the best of times, it was also the worst of times, an era of blood-thirsty fantasies as well as spiritual ones. We ourselves experienced both aspects, starting as civil rights and antiwar activists and ending as co-editors of the New Left magazine Ramparts. The magazine post allowed us to write about the rough beast slouching through America and also to urge it on through noneditorial activities we thought of as clandestine until we later read about them in the FBI and CIA files we both accumulated.

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